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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/271,411	03/17/1999	M. ALLEN NORTHRUP	22660-0009P1	4121
20350	7590	01/21/2005	EXAMINER	
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER EIGHTH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834			MARSCHEL, ARDIN H	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1631		

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application N .	Applicant(s)
	09/271,411	NORTHRUP ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ardin Marschel	1631

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 12 November 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires ____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on 12 November 2004. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: ____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): ____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) ____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: of reasons of record as further discussed as attached.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: ____.

Claim(s) objected to: 51,59,61 and 71.

Claim(s) rejected: 45-50,52-55,57,58,60, & 62-70.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: ____.

8. The drawing correction filed on ____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). ____.

10. Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Further explanation of item # 5 on the enclosed Advisory action:

The prior art rejection of claims 45-50, 52-55, 57, 58, 60, and 62-70 based on Handique et al. (P/N 6,130,098) is maintained and reiterated from the previous office action, mailed 6/9/04. Applicants argue that there are no valves shown in Figure 1. Although no valves are shown in Figure 1 the basic description of the invention in column 12, lines 30-44, describes the movement of biological samples through microchannels which is reasonably flow through channels as also instantly claimed wherein this flow is between various chambers, channels, ports, etc. inclusive reasonably of the transition region as in the instant claims between a reaction chamber and separation channel. This flow is controlled via valves as in the penultimate line of said column 12 citation which reasonably suggests valves wherein flow occurs as cited earlier in said column 12 citation thus reasonably suggesting the instantly claimed invention especially since there are only a limited number of chambers, ports, channels, etc. cited in the reference for flow to occur in. The column 13 citation argued by applicants as teaching away regarding the non requirement of valves is clearly an optional practice since the reference also clearly describes a valve flow control practice as discussed above. Thus, both the practice of values as well as not requiring valves is included as described in the reference thus supporting this rejection based on value practice.

The prior art rejection of claims 45-50, 52-55, 57, 58, 60, and 62-70 based on Handique et al. (P/N 6,130,098); taken in view of Wilding et al. (P/N 5,587,128), or, alternatively, Wilding et al. (P/N 5,587,128); taken in view of Handique et al. (P/N 6,130,098) is maintained and reiterated from the previous office action, mailed 6/9/04.

Applicants do not argue this rejection beyond what has been responded to above as being non-persuasive and is equivalently responded to here as being non-persuasive.

Claims 51, 59, 61, and 71 remain objected to as in the previous office action, mailed 6/9/04.

No claim is allowed.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the Central PTO Fax Center. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The Central PTO Fax Center number is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Supervisory Patent Examiner Ardin Marschel, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0718. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Legal Instrument Examiner, Tina Plunkett, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0549.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

January 18, 2005

Ardin H. Marschel 1/18/05
ARDIN H. MARSCHEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER